

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 TRSE-00
XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 CU-04 /091 W
-----128981 151239Z /12

P 151128Z NOV 77
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1565

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 THE HAGUE 5776

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ECRP, NL
SUBJECT: CERP 002, RELATIONS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

REF: A) 73 STATE A-6884, B) STATE 249989

1. PARAGRAPHS 2 THROUGH 12 ARE SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH
PARTS II AND IV OF THE REFERENCED AIRGRAM DATED 8/10/73.

2. PART II - LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTY MERBERSHIP: THE COMMUNIST
PARTY OF THE NETHERLANDS (CPN) UNDERWENT A MAJOR LEADERSHIP
STRUGGLE IN 1977, FOLLOWING SEVERE LOSSES IN THE MAY PARLIA-
MENTARY ELECTIONS. EVEN BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, CPN LEADERS HAD
MOVED AWKWARDLY, IN FINDING RAPPROCHEMENT WITH CPSU, BUT SERIOUS
ELECTIONS LOSSES (FALLING FROM 7 PARLIAMENTARY SEATS TO 2)
ADDED SUCH INTENSE PRESSURE THAT THE STRUGGLE FOR POWER IN
THE CPN BROKE INTO THE OPEN IN AUGUST. NEWSPAPERS AND JOURNALS
CHRONICLED THE INNINGS OF A FIERCE COMPETITION BETWEEN THE
CURRENT PARTY EXECUTIVE AND A POWERFUL FORMER CHAIRMAN. THE
FORMER CHAIRMAN LOST, BUT NOT BEFORE FORCING THE CURRENT CPN
LEADERS TO REVERT TO 1950'S IDEOLOGICAL CONCEPTS AND METHODS
OF OPERATION. SUBSEQUENTLY, CPN OFFICIALS HAVE PROTESTED THAT
THEY ARE NOT AS "HARD LINE" AS IT WOULD SEEM, BUT FUTURE PARTY
IDEOLOGICAL DIRECTION IS UNCLEAR (SEE THE HAGUE 4799).

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3. CPN PARTICIPATION IN THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT, NOW IN THE PROCESS
OF BEING FORMED ACCORDING TO THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 1977
ELECTIONS, IS NOT A REAL POSSIBILITY. CPN FOUGHT HARD AGAINST
THE LEADERS OF THE TWO LIKELY COALITION PARTNERS AND ALSO SUFFERS
FROM THE DUTCH LABOR PARTY'S SUCCESSFUL SEMI-MONOPLY ON LEFT-
WING INTELLECTUALS. THE PARTY CLAIMS THAT CPN MEMBERSHIP NOW

STANDS AT 14,500, AN INCREASE OVER LAST YEAR'S 11,000.

4. PART IV.A. - CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES: THE EMBASSY PROVIDED A COMPLETE LIST OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN ITS CERP 002 REPORT IN 1975 (THE HAGUE A-158, 11/20/75). THERE HAVE BEEN NO BASIC CHANGES IN THOSE AGREEMENTS NOR HAVE THE DUTCH SIGNED ANY NEW AGREEMENTS. ALL AGREEMENTS ARE OPERATING SATISFACTORILY.

5. THE NETHERLANDS HAS CULTURAL AGREEMENTS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND ALL EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES EXCEPT FOR ALBANIA AND EAST GERMANY. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT NO CULTURAL AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED DURING THE VISIT TO THE NETHERLANDS THIS YEAR OF EAST GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER. THE AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION IS LIMITED IN SCOPE AND IS BEING FULFILLED IN A MEASURED AND ORDERLY MANNER BY THE DUTCH. IN GENERAL, NETHERLANDS-COMMUNIST COUNTRY CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL AGREEMENTS ARE BEING FOLLOWED TO THE LETTER BY BOTH SIDES.

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6. PART IV.B. - INFORMATION AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES OTHER THAN EXCHANGES: EXCEPT FOR A SLIGHT INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF COMMUNIST COUNTRY CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS, THERE APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LITTLE CHANGE IN THE COMMUNIST COUNTRY MEDIA OR CULTURAL ACTIVITY DURING THE PAST YEAR. THE CULTURAL PRESENTATION
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INCREASE MAY BE DUE TO EFFORTS TO PUT ON AS GOOD A FACE AS POSSIBLE BEFORE THE BELGRADE REVIEW CONFERENCE. THERE HAS BEEN A REMARKABLY LOW LEVEL OF PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION.

7. THE MAJOR MEDIA EVENTS IN THE CULTURAL AND INFORMATION FIELD THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN NEGATIVE FROM THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES' POINT OF VIEW. DUTCH FOREIGN MINISTER VAN DER STOEL'S VISIT TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS WIDELY COVERED BY THE DUTCH PRESS, ESPECIALLY HIS MEETING WITH THE LATE CHARTER 77 LEADER JAN PATOCKA. THE EAST GERMAN OPERA COMPANY RECEIVED MORE COVERAGE FOR THE DEFECTION OF A CELLIST THAN FOR ITS PERFORMANCES. EAST GERMAN DISSIDENT POPULAR MUSICIAN WOLF BIERMAN ATTRACTED WIDE PRESS COVERAGE DURING HIS STAY IN THE NETHERLANDS.

8. PRESS OFFICES NAMED IN PREVIOUS REPORTS REMAIN OPEN, BUT WITH ONLY LIMITED VISIBLE ACTIVITY.

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INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MMO-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1566

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 THE HAGUE 5776

9. PERFORMING ARTS GROUPS AND OTHER CULTURAL PRESENTATIONS
FROM THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES WERE SIMILAR IN QUALITY AND TYPE
TO PREVIOUS YEARS. TYPICAL EXAMPLES WERE:

FOLK DANCE GROUPS FROM THE UKRAINE, BULGARIA, ROMANIA,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND YUGOSLAVIA.
A FOLK MUSIC ENSEMBLE FROM HUNGARY.
IRINA ARKHIPOVA, RUSSIAN DIVA.
AN AVANT GARDE POLISH THEATER GROUP THAT PERFORMED IN AMSTERDAM'S
MICKERY THEATER WHICH FEATURES FOREIGN THEATER GROUPS.
FOLK ART EXHIBITS FROM ROMANIA AND POLAND.
THE PERM BALLET FROM THE USSR.
YOUTH CHOIRS FROM HUNGARY AND POLAND.
THE SLOVAK PHILHARMONIC GHOIR.
THE EAST GERMAN STATE OPERA.

10. IN ADDITION TO THE GROUPS LISTED ABOVE, SEVERAL SOLOISTS
FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES PERFORMED WITH THE LEADING ORCHESTRAS
IN THE NETHERLANDS OR GAVE RECITALS WHILE TRAVELING ON COMMERCIAL
TOURS THROUGH WESTERN EUROPE. EXCEPT FOR MAJOR NAMES MOST
PRESENTATIONS ARE STATE-SPONSORED FOLK MUSIC GROUPS.

1. SOVIET AND CHINESE FRIENDSHIP SOCIETIES DID NOT APPEAR TO
BE MORE ACTIVE THAN IN PAST YEARS.
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12. EASTERN EUROPEAN AND SOVIET EFFORTS TO INCREASE INTEREST
IN THE CULTURAL EXCHANGE PORTION OF THE ACT OF HELSINKI RAN
HEADLONG INTO DUTCH INTEREST AND CONCERN WITH COMPLIANCE WITH

OTHER SECTIONS OF THE ACT, ESPECIALLY THOSE CONCERNING HUMAN RIGHTS. IT IS STILL DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE SUCCESS OF COMMUNIST CULTURAL AND INFORMATIONAL EFFORTS, BUT THEY WERE NOT ABLE THIS YEAR TO OVERCOME THE NEGATIVE NEWS FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIA, POLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION ABOUT TREATMENT OF DISSIDENTS AND MINORITY GROUPS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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